1. Introduction

Co-operation between organizations within the United Nations system and non-governmental organizations has its legal basis in the provisions contained in article 71 of the United Nations Charter, adopted in 1945, dealing with arrangements for co-operation with non-governmental organizations. These have since been supplemented by other legal instruments of the United Nations. Within the spirit of this article the specialized agencies and other institutions in the United Nations system have drawn up procedures for co-operation with NGOs which are more suited to their particular requirements.

2. Legal instrument

As far as UNIDO is concerned, it is paragraph 36 of General Assembly resolution 2152 (XXI) dealing with its establishment and its operating rules and procedures which constitutes the legal basis of the provisions governing its relations with NGOs. At its first session the Industrial Development Board requested the UNIDO secretariat to prepare, for its second session in 1968, a document on the procedures to be followed to grant international NGOs the status of observers, based on the experience of other specialized agencies and institutions within the United Nations system.

As a result the UNIDO secretariat contacted a number of agencies and other institutions such as the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the International Labour Organisation (ILO), the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the World Health Organization (WHO), the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in order to gather as much information as possible on the regulations governing their relations with NGOs. The document prepared by the secretariat covered:

(a) Functions, composition and terms of reference of an ad hoc committee of the Board on relations with NGOs;

(b) Criteria for the granting of consultative status to international NGOs;

(c) Procedure to be followed and information to be submitted with candidatures for consultative status; and

(d) Duties and obligations of international NGOs granted this status. From this document which was adopted in 1968 at the second session of the Board, it is particularly noteworthy that:

i. Unlike some agencies and institutions of the United Nations, such as FAO, UNESCO, ILO and ECOSOC which had two or three types of relations with NGOs, or the IBRD which dealt with the matter on an ad hoc basis, UNIDO was to recognize only one category of NGO;

ii. The international character of the NGO which applies for observer status must be established; and

iii. International NGOs wishing to be granted this status must be involved in industrial development, as recommended in paragraph 36 of resolution 2152 (XXI) of the General Assembly. 1/

1/ Document A 7215 IV.

3. Institutional instrument

At the institutional level and in order better to underline the interest attaching to co-operation with NGOs, the Section for co-operation with these organizations was created in January 1976. This Section is responsible for mobilizing and channelling the technological, management and financial resources which NGOs, enterprises and industrial institutions have available into the industrial process of developing countries. These organizations include the following institutions, both in the public and private sectors: international, regional, subregional and interregional NGOs.

The Section accomplishes this task by identifying resources which NGOs have available by establishing co-operation agreements, informing them of the needs of developing countries in order to encourage them to respond by mobilizing adequate resources in order to formulate and implement specific projects either jointly with UNIDO, or alone, or with other governmental or non-governmental organizations. This Section now has a Chief at level P-5, four Professional staff of a lower grade and four General Service personnel.

4. Areas of co-operation with NGOs

The number and diversity of NGOs covers all areas in which UNIDO is competent. Through their members they dispose of a vast human, technological and logistical potential which they wish to make available to developing countries. It is the duty of UNIDO to assist developing countries in gaining access to this potential and it is for NGOs to satisfy this aspiration. That is why UNIDO is anxious to increase the volume while endeavouring also to improve the quality of the assistance offered to these countries by drawing on the technical, financial, administrative and human resources available to NGOs in both developed and developing countries. These efforts have led to the identification, formulation and implementation of many technical co-operation activities to the benefit of Third World countries. Indeed a large part of the activities of UNIDO as a whole is directed to assisting developing countries in the establishment or strengthening of NGOs within the context of the organization's regular programme of co-operation with these countries. It is well known that the existence of NGOs in certain industrial sectors or subsectors in a country or in a region depends on the level of development attained by the country or region concerned. Developing countries are endeavouring to fill the gap created by the lack of NGOs in these sectors or subsectors by setting up governmental and intergovernmental organizations with the help of international organizations or through bilateral co-operation. Taking the term NGO in its broadest sense, the areas of co-operation between UNIDO and NGOs covers almost all UNIDO's activities. Whenever for example UNIDO assists an enterprise to improve its productivity, or contributes to the creation or strengthening of a research and development institution, a national organization for quality control, metrology and standardization, a promotion agency for small or medium-sized enterprises or rural industrialization, a chamber of commerce and industry, any kind of industrial institution, or an industrial co-operative, it can be considered to be co-operating with an NGO, even though the request for assistance may have been submitted through Government channels and the offices of Resident Representatives of the United Nations Development Programme.

The areas of co-operation which will be covered in this document will only concern the most salient aspects of co-operation with NGOs through the Non-governmental Organizations Section and their participation in certain special UNIDO programmes.

4.1 Establishment of NGOs

The establishment and operation of an NGO call for considerable human and material resources, something which for certain types of NGO and in certain regions such as Africa is only possible on the basis of international co-operation. And yet the importance of these organizations in the industrialization of developing countries has been stressed on several occasions. The Lima Plan of Action encourages developing countries to adopt industrialization policies designed to develop and strengthen public, financial and other types of institution and to give due attention to industrial co-operatives as means of mobilizing the local human, natural and financial resources for the achievement of the objectives of economic growth and social development. 2/

As far as the Lagos Plan of Action is concerned, this recommends the creation and strengthening of scientific and technological associations and societies and the establishment of co-operative links at regional level and with other similar organizations in order to facilitate the circulation and exchange of information in all fields of socio-economic development. 3/ That is why UNIDO encourages and contributes to the creation of subregional and regional sectorial associations whose aim is to mobilize local resources in key areas both in the sphere of industrialization and in economic and social development in general, such as worker training and development, pharmaceutical industries, fertilizer industries and cement industries. Wherever possible these activities are undertaken with existing organizations in these sectors.

As examples of activities in this field, in Africa and the Arab world one may point to the assistance provided to the Arab Federation of Chemical Fertilizer Producers, in conjunction with the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the Arab Organization for Industrial Development in order to strengthen its operational resources in the field of disseminating and processing information and in supplying technical assistance to some of its members. After taking part in the creation of the African Cement Manufacturers Association (CIMAFRIQUE), in the context of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa (IDDA), which placed particular emphasis on the development of the building materials industry, UNIDO has continued to provide assistance to this organization to allow it to intensify co-operation between its members in personnel training and research into special methods of testing cement adapted to tropical climatic conditions.

4.2 Promotion of co-operation between NGOs

The promotion of co-operation among NGOs is undertaken either through the UNIDO regular programme of assistance to developing countries, that is with the involvement of the governments of the countries concerned, or through ad hoc projects directly identified and implemented in co-operation with NGOs. This has a

---

2/ Lima Declaration and Plan of Action on Industrial Development and Co-operation adopted by the Second General Conference of UNIDO, Lima, Peru, 12-26 March 1975, para. 58 (g) and (i).

3/ Organization of African Unity, Lagos Plan of Action for the Economic Develoment of Africa, 1980-2000, adopted by the Second Extraordinary Session of Heads of State and of Government of the OAU, devoted to the economic problems of Africa, Lagos, Nigeria, 28 - 30 April 1980, paragaph 154 (c).

certain specific importance in the domain of the co-operative movement and in the basic and advanced training of personnel in Africa. Thus, in co-operation with the International Co-operative Alliance (ICA) and the Joint Committee for the Promotion of Aid to Co-operatives (COPAC), the International Committee for Artisanal Societies and Workers' Production Co-operatives, national co-operatives in certain European countries such as Poland, Bulgaria, Sweden and certain governments of donor countries such as Italy, UNIDO's activity is aimed at developing the spirit of the co-operative movement by organizing seminars or by promoting the participation of national personnel cadres in international meetings of a technical nature.

In the spirit of recommendation 272 of the New Delhi Declaration and Plan of Action, which invited the UNIDO secretariat to encourage and strengthen national, regional and inter-regional training institutions in developing countries, the transfer of certain training facilities in production management techniques developed by the University of Louvain (Belgium) to the School of Economic and Commerical Science of the University of Douala (Cameroon) is an interesting example of co-operation between NGOs. The two institutions co-operated within the framework of a four-year programme which entered its implementation phase in 1981 and which involved the joint organization of training seminars in Douala and courses for Cameroonian teachers at the University of Louvain. From 1984 the University of Douala is taking over virtually full responsibility for the project. In addition, co-operation programmes in key scientific areas such as R and D and biotechnology have been developed between other institutions. The Centre for Biotechnology at Lorena (Brazil) and the University of Munich (Federal Republic of Germany) have carried out pilot studies and joint research into cloning of cellulose genes; the University of Dublin (Ireland) and the University of the Punjab (Pakistan) have co-operated on the subject of high cellulose-producing yeast species; the Kuwait Institute of Scientific Research and the University of Illinois (United States of America) are to undertake joint research on the enhanced production of single-cell protein using genetic engineering techniques 4/.

Enterprise-to-enterprise co-operation, investment promotion, the System of Consultations and the Technology Programme which will be considered later also offer a number of possibilities of co-operation between NGOs.

4.3 Establishment of co-operative links between universities and training centres and industry

Bearing in mind that in all countries universities and training centres constitute an important reservoir of both theoretical and practical knowledge which it would be a pity to isolate from the world of production, UNIDO is anxious to develop integrated programmes of industrial consultation with universities and training centres designed to provide entrepreneurs who need it with assistance in the field of the setting up and management of enterprises. UNIDO has just published a document in English and French on this subject, reference UNIDO/PC.15, which is available to all organizations on request.

In the African region this programme was launched in Mauritius, where a UNIDO mission was to evaluate the needs of the manufacturing sector with a view to setting up a consultative group responsible for assisting industrial enterprises in solving their management problems.

4/ Annual Report of the Executive Director 1984, page 158, paragraph 87.

4.4 Use of industrial fairs for the transfer of technologies

Industrial fairs offer a unique opportunity to see products manufactured using the latest technologies in each industrial sector and to establish contacts between producers and potential customers or bring about co-operation agreements between partners operating in the same sector. In response, on the one hand, to the interest of exhibition organizers in having the participation of qualified people from developing countries and, on the other, in order to provide assistance to the latter, UNIDO has developed a programme for using fairs as a means of promoting the transfer of technologies to developing countries. This programme hinges on three features: the sponsoring of participation by officials responsible for industrialization at various levels in developing countries, maintenance of a stand designed to publicize UNIDO's activities, and the organization of special seminars during the fairs combined with factory visits during which useful information on manufacturing techniques and processes are given to participants, thus creating a propitious climate for concluding co-operation agreements.

During 1984, UNIDO took part in the International Foundry Fair "GIFA 84" in Düsseldorf (Federal Republic of Germany), the Poznan International Fair (Poland) and the Twenty-Sixth International Fair of the Mechanical Engineering Industry in Brno (Czechoslovakia). The practical interest of the results achieved and the relatively modest level of the costs involved encouraged UNIDO to draw up a long-term programme for its participation in the major industrial fairs.

For example it can be pointed out that during the course of "GIFA 84" the UNIDO Information Stand dealt with some 600 requests for information and held 60 specific consultations, and also organized a foundry seminar for presentation of the UNIDO technical co-operation programme. A study tour including visits to foundry and metallurgical plants in the vicinity was organized for six engineers from Angola, Morocco, Nepal, Somalia and the United Republic of Tanzania, by courtesy of the Fair's management. 5/

4.5 Exchange of views and knowledge

This consists of an exchange of documentation and direct contacts between UNIDO and NGOs through correspondence, visits or participation in conferences, symposia, seminars and internal specialized workshops and meetings organized by one or the other. In 1984, UNIDO received 115 invitations to take part in this type of event, but unfortunately its limited resources enabled it to send representatives to only a very limited number. NGOs for their part constantly participate and support meetings organized by UNIDO. In the context of the preparations for the Fourth General Conference, which took place in August 1984 in Vienna, UNIDO held a forum of NGOs to discuss NGO contributions to the Conference. Representatives of industrial scientific and technical circles, the world of business and trade unions from 42 international and national NGOs took part. Prominent among the conclusions was the invitation to participants to support the Conference and take part in follow-up work in response to recommendations made by the latter. This is one of the reasons for organizing the current Forum. Another conclusion by this Forum was the convocation, aimed at NGOs, of a special round table on the occasion of UNIDO's conversion into a specialized agency in order to establish institutional machinery for co-operation with the new UNIDO and to strengthen the role of NGOs in the promotion of the interests and activities of the Organization.

5/ Report of the Executive Director 1984, Chapter II, para. 227, page 102.

Representatives of 33 international NGOs enjoying consultative status with UNIDO took part in the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO itself. This participation was unquestionably of value to the Conference in areas which neither UNIDO nor governments could have reached through their institutional channels of communication.

5. NGO participation in certain UNIDO special programmes

UNIDO special programmes in which co-operation with national or international NGOs deserves to be particularly emphasized are: the energy co-operation programme, the investment co-operation programme, the technology programme, co-operation between developing countries and the System of Consultations. UNIDO has developed many projects in the framework of these various programmes, to which NGOs of developing and of industrialized countries, or of a global nature, have made varying contributions.

5.1. Special energy programme

In order to contribute to the implementation of the Nairobi Programme of Action 6/ for the exploitation and use of new and renewable energy resources and to assist the Executive Director in co-ordinating and formulating policies and programmes concerning energy in general, a special advisory group on energy was set up within the Office of the Executive Director of UNIDO. Taking as a basis the study of internal documents and the reports of consultants, expert group meetings and international conferences, a policy for co-operation with developing countries in the energy field has developed, which UNIDO has followed in past years and which was confirmed by UNIDO IV, being particularly aimed at:

(a) establishing integrated planning of energy and industrial sectors in developing countries;

(b) encouraging the adoption of a policy aimed at achieving self-sufficiency in energy by exploiting local energy resources;

(c) increasing production of capital goods for the energy sector;

(d) ensuring better use of energy in industry, and studying suitable incentives for industry to attract undertakings to the vicinity of large hydro-electric dams. 7/

With respect to the development of new and renewable energy sources, UNIDO attaches particular importance to resources of hydro-electric power and biomass energy because they are in general everywhere abundant and seem the most likely to exercise a significant influence in the development of rural areas. Other forms of energy, such as geothermal energy and wind power can be of major importance to individual countries, but they are generally site-specific and unlikely to have a large impact on developing countries as a whole. 8/ As far as solar energy is concerned, its use in specific activities such as pumping water, salt production and fish drying has shown encouraging results, although its current domestic use is still restricted by technical problems (production, repair and maintenance of facilities and manufacture of spare parts etc.) and by financial constraints.

6/ Report of the United Nations Conference on New and Renewable Sources of Energy, Nairobi 10-21 August 1984 (Sales No. F.81.I.24).

7/ Report of the Executive Director of UNIDO 1983, page 129, para. 4.

8/ Report of the Executive Director of UNIDO 1983, page 129 and 130, para. 5.

In the field of the manufacture of capital goods required for the energy sector, co-operation projects are being developed with the most advanced developing countries. Many of these activities are being undertaken with the involvement of either national or international NGOs.

5.2 Investment co-operative programme

Of all the UNIDO special programmes the investment co-operative programme (ICP) is undoubtedly the one offering the greatest scope for collaboration with NGOs. Given that the fundamental activities of this programme consist of identifying, developing or reformulating, evaluating and promoting industrial projects, it concerns enterprises and entrepreneurs, national and international bodies for industrial promotion, financial institutions and so on. Through this programme, UNIDO endeavours to serve as an intermediary between the various partners, while protecting the interests of developing countries by helping mobilize resources where they are available (industry, governments and other NGOs) in order to channel them into the industrialization process of those countries. It gathers and disseminates information on projects and resources, undertakes training programmes for promoters of industrial projects and studies innovative investment-related arrangements including multilateral buy-back and leasing mechanisms or new forms of association between enterprises.

In order to accomplish this task UNIDO has, since 1976, been developing a network of investment promotion services which give enterprises and entrepreneurs, national promotion services, associations of entrepreneurs and others in developing countries access to opportunities for co-operation in host countries in the technical and managerial fields and for the mobilization of human and financial resources. These services, which are almost wholly financed by the host countries, are currently established in Cologne (Federal Republic of Germany), New York (United States of America), Paris (France), Tokyo (Japan), Warsaw (Poland) and Vienna (Austria). Negotiations aimed at setting up two new investment promotions services in Milan (Italy) and Seoul (Republic of Korea) are in progress.

This network is supported by a series of publications containing a large mass of information on several aspects of project promotion, in which NGOs play a predominant role:

(i) The Bank File consists of information on international, regional and national development finance institutions that may be willing to provide finance for industrial investment projects. The data given on each institution include the maximum and minimum lending limits, the term of its loans, its geographical area of activity, and the intended uses of the capital provided - study on preparation of projects, equity investment or the financing of projects in the private sector.

(ii) The Institution File is a directory of governmental and non-governmental institutions, such as ministries of industry, development corporations, investment promotion agencies, manufacturers' associations and chambers of commerce, that are, or could be, sources of industrial investment projects in developing countries. The basic information provided for each entry includes a classification of the institution according to type as well as the name of the officer responsible for investment promotion activities.

(iii) The Sponsor File is essentially a listing of firms in developing countries that may benefit from the redeployment of operational plants from industrialized countries. Data on redeployment possibilities from countries in which UNIDO has an Investment Promotion Service are transmitted to firms listed in the Sponsor File.

(iv) The Investor File contains information on public or private enterprises in some 40 industrialized and developing countries that are willing to participate in the implementation of industrial investment projects.

(v) The Project File contains information on investment projects communicated by national promotion services, industry associations, chambers of commerce and other NGOs engaged in the field of industrialization 9/.

These files are regularly updated and stored in the computerized Investment Promotion Information System (IMPRIS).

Another publication based on information mainly supplied by NGOs is the document "Proposals for Industrial Associations" (formerly called "Directory of Offers of Co-operation") which reached its seventh edition in 1984. It contains information on products, some 4,000, the manufacture of which can be undertaken in developing countries with the collaboration of potential partners. It has been sent to development corporations, investment promotion agencies, manufacturers' associations, chambers of commerce and other public and private bodies concerned with industrialization in developing countries.

NGOs also play a key role in information meetings and those for investment promotion organized at national level in developing countries. In the first type of meeting, representatives of public authorities and business circles in the countries concerned have the opportunity to inform representatives of banks, manufacturers associations and industrial federations of investment opportunities in their country and the advantages offered by the investment code. This type of meeting has been organized in several African countries, including Egypt, Kenya, Lesotho, Mauritius, Senegal, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Investment promotion meetings also offer NGOs the opportunity of collaborating with developing countries. In Africa they are organized either at country level or at sub-regional level. The Dakar Forum, which met in 1984 for the sixth time and which is of concern to all States Members of CEAO (West African Economic Community), brought together 252 African and 273 foreign participants, mainly from institutions which could be classed as NGOs. The discussions covered the promotion of 155 national and sub-regional investment projects 10/.

5.3 Technology programme

The activities of this programme are aimed at assisting developing countries to increase their scope for choice, acquisition, development of technologies, and adaptation of technological innovation. The importance attached to this programme was reiterated by the Fourth General Conference of UNIDO which set out the tasks to be undertaken by the organization in pursuing the objectives of the Vienna Programme of Action on Science and Technology for Development 11/.

9/ Report of the Executive Director, 1984, pages 170 and 171.

10/ (IDB Chapter V, para. 150.)

11/ Report of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Vienna 20-31 August 1979 (UN publication No. E.79.I.21 and Corrigenda Chapter VI.)

The main points are:

(i) to assist developing countries in the setting up of national groups to monitor and assess technological trends and technical groups or institutions in selected technological advances;

(ii) to continue to monitor world technology trends and the changing international technology market;

(iii) to promote technical training - particularly with regard to new technologies - and help developing countries in projects in new technological opportunities; to contribute to the creation of an international referral system for the identification of high-level scientists and technologists;

(iv) assist developing countries in making a survey of areas where needs could be met through the application of appropriate technologies, and encourage international co-operation in this regard;

(v) to assist in establishing more efficient institutional linkages in selected technologies, so that interested countries might identify any gaps in existing arrangements with a view to considering the setting up, where necessary, of national, regional and international centres for these technologies. 12/.

The implementation of this programme requires an active contribution by NGOs.

In the field of technology acquisition the activities of UNIDO are oriented towards creating or reinforcing R & D establishments or institutions responsible for evaluating technology imports under transfer of technology arrangement or for collecting data on techniques and contracts or towards promoting traditional technology. This technological information exchange system (TIES) which UNIDO has been developing for some years aims to promote and develop the exchange of information between services for the registration of technology transfer contracts by stimulating international co-operation. Co-operative activities between small- and medium-sized enterprises for the transfer of technology in fields such as light engineering, metallurgy and the food industry are intended to link enterprises in different countries in order to undertake projects in common and even as joint ventures. In addition, UNIDO is anxious to satisfy the information needs of enterprises, R & D institutions, engineering firms, sectoral associations and so on through the Industrial and Technological Information Bank (INTIB) and other means of communication such as specialized publications: information folders on available technological solutions in priority sectors, sources of industrial information, lists of techniques and technological processes etc.

5.4 Programme of industrial co-operation between developing countries

NGOs participate actively in the various UNIDO activities concerning economic and technical co-operation between developing countries (ECDC/TCDC). The various forms of this co-operation have been developed in the light of recommendations adopted at international conferences such as the Lima Declaration and Plan of Action 13/ and the Caracas Programme of Action, adopted by the high level Conference on economic co-operation between developing countries 14/.

12/ Report of the Executive Director 1984, pages 156 and 157, para. 77-79.

13/ ID/CONF.3/31, Chapter IV

14/ A/36/333 and Corrigendum 1

They include:

(a) the preparation of solidarity meetings in least developed countries and round table ministerial meetings in order to bring together developing countries for promotion of industrial development;

(b) follow-up of solidarity meetings already held;

(c) development of joint programmes for specific industrial subsectors;

(d) implementation of the recommendations relating to TCDC reached at the UNIDO System of Consultations. 15/

Until now the presence of financial institutions at these meetings has been favoured. Encouragement of such participation is in response to the chronic problems of financing (particularly foreign exchange) which are a feature of the majority of projects put forward at these meetings. The object is to remove the burden weighing on these projects. The participation of these instititutions is much appreciated and always desired by host countries. Their contribution covers a wide range of activities: participation in investment capital with the financing of agriculture and agro-industry as a priority; loans for feasibility studies, implementation of projects and the establishment of plants; promotion of industrial projects both in the private and public sector at regional and sub-regional level; project identification studies in specific industrial sectors; financing of international travel costs relating to training courses in the context of co-operation between developing countries; financing of training and the experimental stage of projects; co-financing of infrastructural projects and financing of the establishment and development of industrial zones and estates.

Manufacturers' federations, sectoral associations and professional organizations also participate by offering their services, infrastructure and expertise in the preparation of pre-investment studies, establishment of data banks, implementation of projects, training in investment promotion, etc.

A new form of ECDC/TCDC involving enterprise-to-enterprise co-operation in developing countries was born in 1984. Steps were undertaken to strengthen co-operation with a similar programme known by the name of co-enterprise, established by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce, Industry and Trade based in Pakistan. This programme is complemented by a project for the exchange of knowledge regarding enterprise management in developing countries through direct consultations and training of project managers.

In the context of the targets of the Industrial Development Decade for Africa, particular importance has been attached to NGO contributions in a wide variety of fields including mobilization of financial, technical and human resources, co-operation between enterprises and financial and training institutions, establishment and strengthening of sectoral institutions etc. We shall not however deal with this subject here, since other documents cover the subject in greater detail.

15/ Report of the Executive Director, 1983, page 158, para. 118

5.5 System of Consultations

The System of Consultations is a very useful tool for UNIDO in maintaining permanent contact with all parties involved in industrial development, i.e. governments, intergovernmental organizations, industrial undertakings, professional associations, research and development centres, etc. Participation in consultations also permits spontaneous exchange of points of view between interested parties and the cementing of personal and business relationships.

Non-governmental organizations have always been represented on a massive scale either by representatives who are part of the official delegations of their respective countries or by observers sent by national, sub-regional and world sectoral organizations. This is a progressively growing trend. For example, between the First and Second Consultations on the Food-Processing Industry, the number of participants from NGOs included in official national delegations increased from 80 16/ to 89 17/ out of the total and from 25 to 30 in the case of those from developing countries. It is interesting to note, moreover, that at the second consultation, all the elected members of the bureau to direct the deliberations came from NGOs. 18/

These organizations are active not only during the meetings but also before and after. But while it is not difficult to identify activities undertaken jointly with NGOs in the preparation of consultation meetings, (information and awareness meetings, technical seminars), it is a quite different matter to identify follow-up activities undertaken by NGOs, either because the UNIDO secretariat is not always informed or because some of these activities may take place long after the meetings which inspired them. For example, the Second Consultation on the Food-Processing Industry had acknowledged that increased participation of co-operatives and small- and medium-sized enterprises in international co-operation in order to promote the food-processing industry in developing countries would be advantageous from a production, processing and marketing point of view. It had recommended participants to encourage greater participation by:

(a) encouraging and arranging more direct contact between interested managements and their counterparts and assigning competent personnel to development projects and

(b) envisaging the formation of consortia with other interested co-operatives, organizations and enterprises as well as financial institutions in order to strengthen their ability to take part in the implementation of development projects. 19/

It is clear that this kind of recommendation cannot be implemented overnight. It requires a slow evolution which will bear fruit over a period that cannot be determined *a priori*.

16/ UNIDO report on the First Consultation on the Food-Processing Industry, the Hague (Netherlands), 9-13 November 1981, Annex 1, list of participants.

17/ UNIDO, Second Consultation on the Food-Processing Industry with Special Emphasis on Vegetable Oils and Fats, Copenhagen (Denmark), 15-19 October 1984, Annex I, list of participants.

18/ *Ibid*, page 12.

19/ Second Consultation on the Food-Processing Industry with Special Emphasis on Vegetable Oils and Fats, ID/329, page 9, paras. a and b.

In 1981 UNIDO carried out an overall evaluation of the activities of these committees and a re-examination of their contributions in the light of the New Delhi Declaration and Plan of Action, and called a meeting which took place in Vienna in December of the same year. The participants, who came from 8 National Committees, recommended the following in particular:

(a) the National Committees should play an important role in assisting the industrialization process of the developing countries;

(b) communication between the Committees and the UNIDO secretariat should be more direct and substantial;

(c) the Committees should increase their efforts to disseminate nationally information on the role and potential of UNIDO and the opportunities afforded by it; and

(d) closer and more active co-operation should be developed among the Committees themselves. 20/

It was decided as a result of this meeting to strengthen the existing National Committee network and invite representatives of selected Committees to UNIDO headquarters each year, during the sessions of the Industrial Development Board, so as to enable them to have discussions with senior staff of UNIDO and to familiarize themselves with the programmes and activities of the Organization. 21/

Another UNIDO programme where there is a major degree of co-operation with NGOs is constituted by the National Committees for UNIDO.

6. National committees for UNIDO

The International Symposium on Industrial Development held in Athens, Greece, in 1967 had recommended the establishment of a mechanism at national level or the designation of an already existing institution to enable national authorities and representatives of the private sector concerned with industrial development to exchange ideas on the industrial development of their country and to formulate recommendations to the government on all questions relating to the work of UNIDO. These mechanisms constitute an advisory body on the development of industrial policies for governments and provide information on all aspects of UNIDO activities. They also enable members of the private sector to express their views on government industrial development policy and on UNIDO activities in their respective countries.

20/ Report of the Executive Director, 1981, page 158, para. 7.

21/ Report of the Executive Director, 1982, page 171, para. 27.

REFERENCES

1. Document A 7215 IV

2. Annual Report of the Executive Director 1984

3. Annual Report of the Executive Director 1983

4. Annual Report of the Executive Director 1982

5. Annual Report of the Executive Director 1981

6. IDB Chapter V

7. Report of the United Nations Conference on Science and Technology for Development, Vienna, 20-31 August 1979 (UN publication No. E.79.I.21 and Corrigenda Chapter VI)

8. ID/CONF.3/31 Chapter IV

9. A/36/333 and Corrigendum 1

10. UNIDO report on the First Consultation on the Food-Processing Industry

11. UNIDO, Second Consultation on the Food-Processing Industry with Special Emphasis on Vegetable Oils and Fats

12. Ibid